

# PARTNER FACT SHEET



## Projected Impact



Boost the production of *Clarias Gariepinus* (African catfish) from 400 to 1,000 metric tons (MT) and process 300MT of catfish per year



Generate at least \$2.6 million in net revenue per year



Employ 200 new farmers, mostly women and youth, to increase the production and processing of catfish each year to meet the rising market need



Okele Agro Farms' staff harvesting, sorting, and counting catfish for stocking in Delta State, Nigeria. *Photo credit: Okele Agro Farms*

## About Okele Agro Farms Nig. Limited

Okele Agro Farms Nig. Ltd (Okele) is a catfish producer and processor based in Delta State, Nigeria. With nearly two decades in the aquaculture business, Okele has a vast technical team, solid infrastructure, and adequate material resources to meet its objective of being the market leader in the aquaculture industry in southern Nigeria. Relying on excellent hatching techniques that have reduced farmed fish mortality by 95 percent and a strategic partnership with stakeholders based on the principle of shared value and prosperity for all, Okele has grown from a modest 30 MT of catfish production in 2004 to 1,300 MT in 2019, and 400 MT in 2020, due to COVID-19's impact that disrupted the entire aquaculture supply chain. Beyond the company's extensive experience in aquaculture, including system feasibility and development in Delta State, Okele also has a considerable focus on the strategic development of the Nigerian aquaculture industry at large.

## Co-Investment Partnership

The USAID-funded West Africa Trade & Investment Hub (Trade Hub) awarded a \$637,106 co-investment grant to Okele to boost the production and processing of *Clarias Gariepinus* (African catfish) to enable the company to meet the rising market demand in Nigeria. During its 2-year partnership with the Trade Hub (from June 2022 to April 2024), Okele will employ 200 fish farmers, to produce 1,000 MT of catfish each year and process 300 MT of catfish each year. The company will reduce fish mortality by maintaining continuous pond water changes through a solar-powered system. Okele will also leverage approximately \$3.2 million in capital and resources for necessary farming and processing tools to facilitate production.

## Partnership Opportunities

Nigeria is the second-largest aquaculture producer in Africa, with a high demand and preference for catfish among consumers. However, the role and potential of aquaculture to achieve goals for improving smallholder income, dietary diversification, and women's empowerment have yet to be fully realized. With its Trade Hub grant, Okele is seeking to expand its production capacity and workforce to meet market demands. The development of sustainable and inclusive production and processing systems will allow Okele to participate in increasing the country's food sovereignty and create economic opportunities for Nigerian farmers, while respecting the natural environment. By the end of the project in April 2024, the company aims to generate at least \$2.6 million in net revenues annually through domestic sales and exports to West African countries.



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